SHANDA FANTASY ARTS

Carole Curtis

# Katmandu

26

JUNE 2002

$4.99

Mature Readers

HHHHSWWW
BOOM!
BAM!

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**http://www.shandafantasyarts.net/**

That's the address for the **ALL NEW** Shanda Fantasy Arts website, now ran by our new webmistress *RAUHNEE RANSHANKA.*
It features cover to ALL the comics we've produced, previews of upcoming art, and a fan mart accessible by the web and Paypal.

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What else is new?

Well, all our comics are 48 pages now, with special backup series running in ***KATMANDU, SHANDA,*** and ***EXTINCTIONERS. OONA THE CAVE BUNNY*** by Mark Moore is featured in KAT, MEDICS by Jon Crusoe and Jerry Loomis in ***SHANDA*** along with ***CEDAR RABBITS PD*** by Dennis Clark and Joyceanna Brock, and ***ANDORAZONS*** by Ken Singshow in ***EXTINCTIONERS.***

***SFA SWIMSUIT SPECIAL*** will try to be a successor to the ***AMAZING HEROES SWIMSUIT SPECIAL*** by featuring famous furry characters in their best bathing attire. We're in discussion with Forest Light regarding specials in the vein of ***HERE COMES A CANDLE,*** perhaps beginning this Christmas.

We're about to debut two new entries in our ***XXX DIGEST*** series. A new ***KATMANDU*** by Boyce Kline and Malcolm Earle, and a new ***SHANDA*** by Mike Curtis and Dennis Clark. Oh, and they'll have ***COLOR COVERS.***

In our (HA HA) spare time, we're preparing all new editions of the ***SHANDAVERSE*** and ***KATMANDU HANDBOOK,*** and these will ALSO be available on CD.

We're looking into our second trade paperback, ***SHANDA THE PANDA: INVITATION TO THE DANCE,*** reprinting ***MU#1*** and ***AP 1-4.***

And that's not counting several established and new series we're looking into publishing.

Sigh...just like before...no spare time.

*Mike and Carole*

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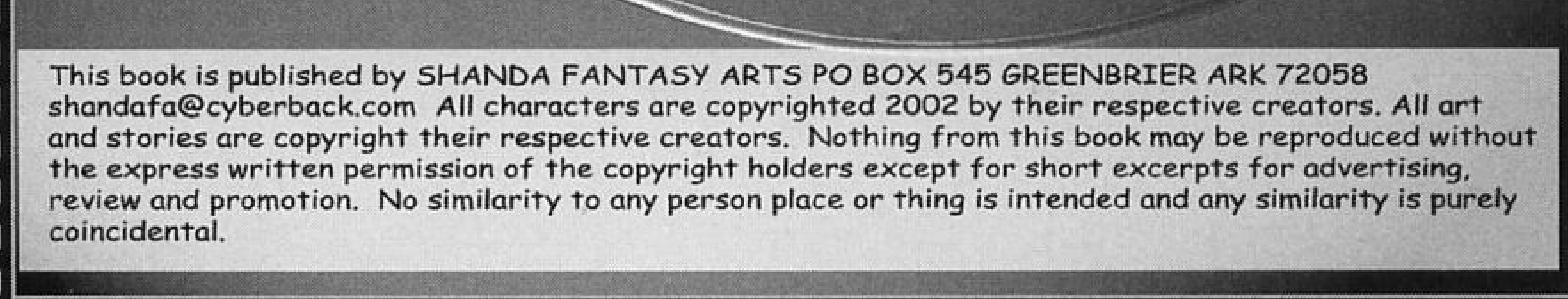


# Katmandu

## "NOT WHAT IT SEEMS"

### PART ONE

HMMM -- SALMON SNAPS, MILK BITES. WHY ALL THE CANDY?
THORIN! REMEMBER TONIGHT IS LIAR'S MOON FESTIVAL. WE'LL HAVE SWARMS OF CHILDREN IN COSTUMES.

| | |
|---|---|
| STORY: | CAROLE CURTIS |
| ART: | LISA JENNINGS |
| INKS: | KENNETH SAMPLE |
| LETTERS: | LISA JENNINGS |

OH, I FORGOT. OF COURSE, WE DIDN'T HAVE THAT WHEN I GREW UP. IT'S A VELITE TRADITION.
THAT'S TRUE. IT WAS ESTABLISHED EVEN IN LISKA'S TIME. OF COURSE *CANDY* WASN'T PART OF THE TRADITION.
*STOP THAT!*
WELL, WHAT DID THEY DO? I DON'T KNOW ABOUT LIAR'S MOON. DOESN'T IT HAPPEN EVERY MONTH?
YES, BUT ONCE A YEAR THE LIAR'S MOON IS AT ITS BRIGHTEST. SINCE IT'S ***LIAR'S MOON***, CHILDREN DRESS UP AS SOMETHING THEY'RE NOT.
AND THE ***ADULTS*** GET TO LIE, MY GREAT BLOATED SLUGGARD.

IT'S MORNING! FIRE IS STREAMING DOWN FROM THE SKY, MOTHER SONNA HAS RUN OFF WITH CHIEF POWNETKEE, AND THETIS HAS GIVEN BIRTH TO KITTENS.
WHAT? OH, I FORGOT. IT'S LIARS MOON.
I'LL GIVE YOU "GOOD MORNING."
OOOH!
OH, THEYRE AT IT AGAIN!
EVERY MORNING --

SOMETIMES I THINK THAT'S STRANGE.
WHY? ONE HUNTS AND THE OTHER COOKS. JUST LIKE EVERY OTHER COUPLE.
AND THEY GET **NOISY** LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE, TOO!
BRRRR -- THESE MORNINGS ARE GETTING COLDER. I HATE TO THINK WHAT THE STREAM WILL FEEL LIKE!
GOOD MORNING, MOTHER SONNA.
***BRIGHT DAWN!*** IT'S BEEN 3 TURNS OF THE SEASON SINCE I'VE SEEN YOU. ARE YOU BACK TO STAY?
FOR A WHILE, AT LEAST.

MOTHER SONNA, THIS IS WINDFLOWER, MY WIFE. HE'S A BERDACHE.
OH! WE HAVEN'T HAD A BERDACHE IN OUR TRIBE FOR *MANY* TURNS OF THE SEASONS!
I HOPE YOU'LL STAY AWHILE!

I'D LIKE TO, SONNA. BRIGHT DAWN TOLD ME SO MUCH ABOUT HIS PEOPLE. IS THERE ROOM FOR US?
WE'LL ***MAKE*** ROOM. YOU COME SEE ***ME***!

OH, I WONDER IF HE'S SKILLED IN DIVINATION . . .

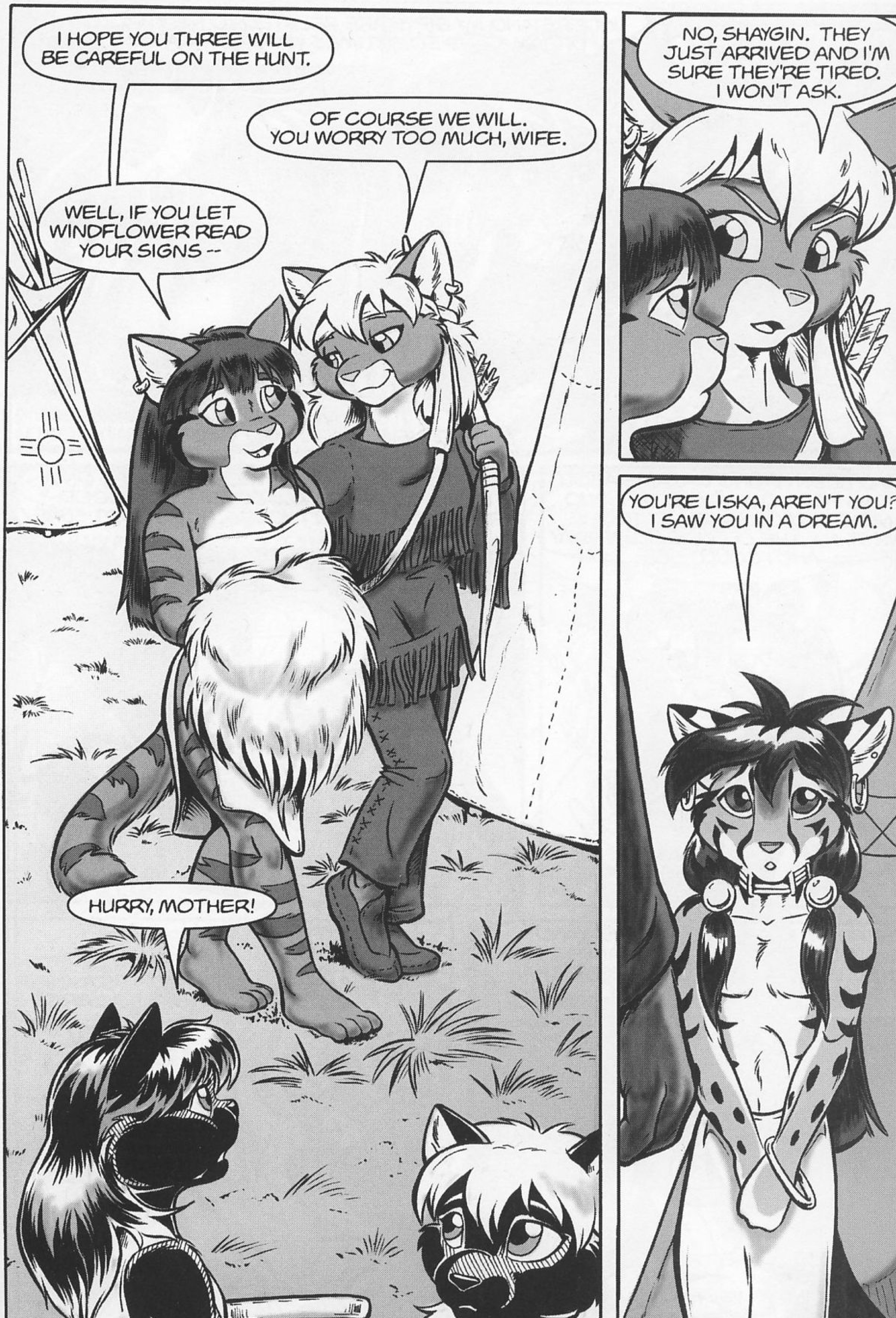
MOTHER SONNA? WHO ARE THOSE TWO? I'VE NEVER SEEN THEM BEFORE.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO AWAKE SO EARLY FOR?
AW, OUR MOTHERS ARE TOO NOISY IN THE FURS.
WELL, COME AND JOIN ME!
ONE IS BRIGHT DAWN, HE LIKES TO TRAVEL. THE OTHER IS WINDFLOWER, WHO'S A BERDACHE.
WHAT'S THAT?
A BERDACHE IS A MALE WHO TAKES A FEMALE ROLE. IT'S A GREAT HONOR FOR A WARRIOR TO HAVE ONE AS A MATE.
SOME BERDACHES HAVE MYSTICAL ABILITIES, TO READ PEOPLE AND FORTELL THE FUTURE.

NOW THAT'S HOW I LIKE TO BEGIN MY MORNINGS.
WELL, A WARRIOR HAS TO KEEP HER WIFE HAPPY.
I CAN'T WAIT FOR YOU TO SEE MELA'S LIAR'S MOON DISGUISE.
THAT'S THREE NIGHTS AWAY. I'LL BE BACK BY THEN.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
PYNDAN, RIAL AND I WILL BE TRACKING HERNDON. WE NEED MEAT FOR THE FEAST.
SOMEONE'S SCRATCHING AT THE DOOR --
CHIEF POWNETKEE! THANK YOU FOR HONORING OUR HOME.
LISKA, THERE IS A MATTER THAT REQURES YOUR ATTENTION.
?

LISKA, YOU WERE NOT CLAN LEADER WHEN BRIGHT DAWN BEGAN HIS TRAVELS. HIS FAMILY IS FROM YOUR CLAN. SO THEY WILL NEED LODGING.
WELCOME, CLANSMAN. I WILL SET THE WOMEN OF THE CLAN TO FINDING YOU SPACE.
I *THINK* MOTHER SONNA HAS ALREADY TAKEN CARE OF THAT. WINDFLOWER'S THERE NOW.
YOU'RE MARRIED?
YES, TO A BERDACHE. WE HOPE TO SETTLE HERE, IF THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
YOU WOULD BE VALUED MEMBERS OF OUR CLAN. WE'LL FIND A SPOT FOR A TENT.

THETIS SEEMS POORLY, PYNDAN.
I THINK SHE'S PINING, LISKA. YOU MIGHT BREED HER WHEN WE GET BACK.
SHE IS OF AGE, ISN'T SHE? I SUPPOSE WE CAN FIND A SUITABLE MATE FOR HER.
WHY LOOK? JUST PUT HER IN A PEN WITH SOME MALES.
THETIS AND HER FEELINGS ARE IMPORTANT TO ME. MY LIFE DEPENDS ON HER TIME AND AGAIN.

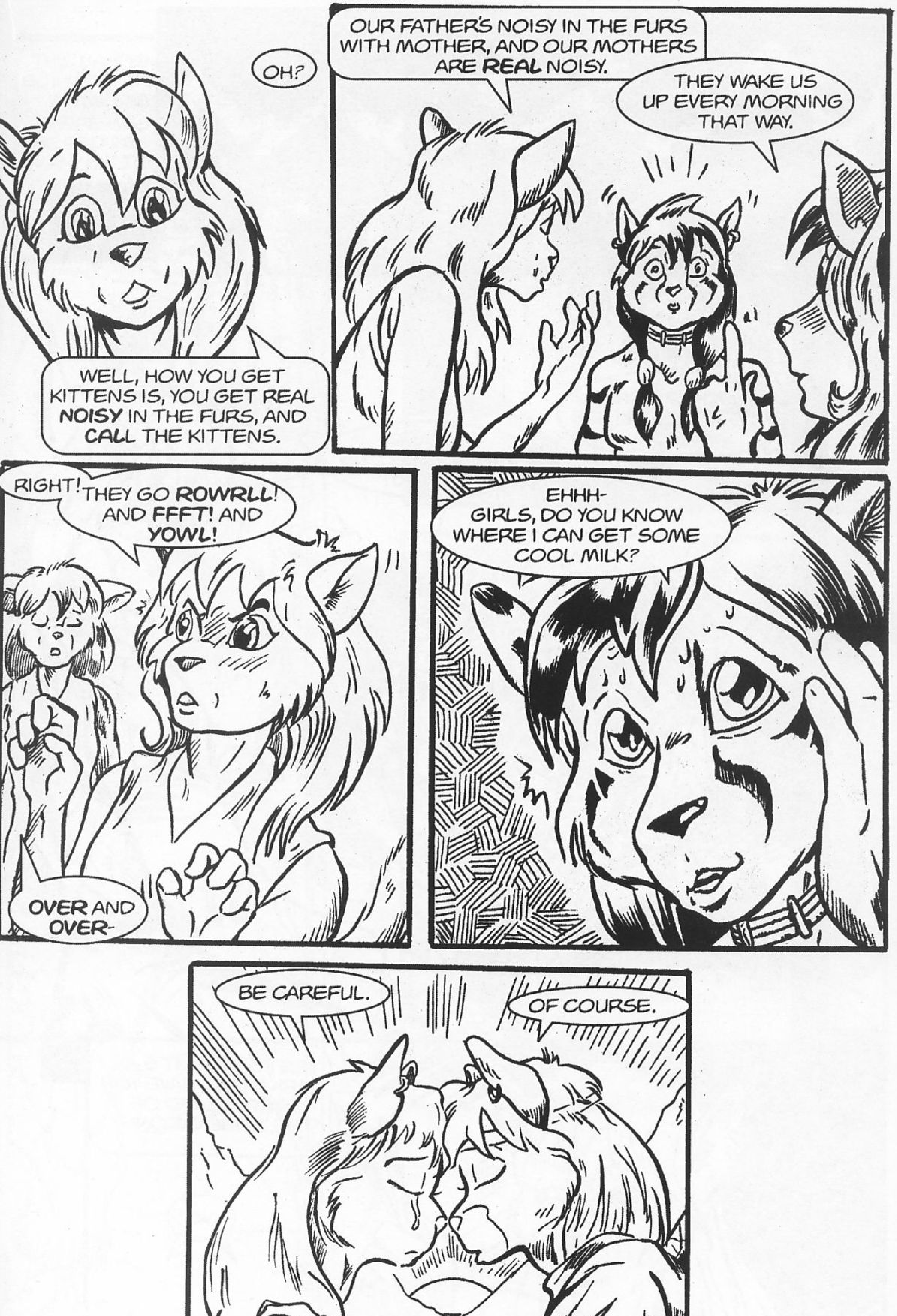
MOTHER, WHEN WE'RE THROUGH PACKING FOOD, CAN WE GO SEE THE BERDACHE?
YEAH! MOTHER SONNA TOLD US ALL ABOUT HIM!
YOU CAN GO WITH ME WHEN I BRING HIM A WELCOMING GIFT. HE IS A PERSON, NOT A **THING** TO LOOK AT! THEA, GO FILL YOUR MOTHER'S WATER BAG AT THE STREAM.
AWW --
THEN WE HAVE TO PACK FOR RIAL, TOO!
BRIGHT DAWN! HOW DID YOU GET OUR TENT UP SO QUICKLY?
CLAN LEADER, LISKA, SENT HELP. I'VE UNLOADED OUR PACKS AS WELL. NOW I'LL SEE ABOUT BARGAINING FOR MORE FURS.
THE NIGHTS **HAVE** BEEN COLD, BUT YOU'RE WARM.


I HOPE YOU THREE WILL BE CAREFUL ON THE HUNT.
OF COURSE WE WILL. YOU WORRY TOO MUCH, WIFE.
WELL, IF YOU LET WINDFLOWER READ YOUR SIGNS --
HURRY, MOTHER!
NO, SHAYGIN. THEY JUST ARRIVED AND I'M SURE THEY'RE TIRED. I WON'T ASK.
YOU'RE LISKA, AREN'T YOU? I SAW YOU IN A DREAM.

(I told you I was worried.)
UNDERSTAND, MY GIFTS ARE RELATED TO ME THROUGH DREAMS, AND SOMETIMES WATER DIVINATION.
THEY MANIFESTED AT AN EARLY AGE, CAUSING MY LIFE TO TAKE THE PATH IT DID.
I HAD BEEN HAVING DREAMS ABOUT THIS FOR SOME TIME. BUT TWO NIGHTS AGO, IN A VALLEY TO THE WEST, ALL THE CLOUDS BLEW AWAY AND I COULD SEE.
I SAW YOU AND TWO OTHER WARRIORS ON A PLAIN. YOU WERE ALL COVERED IN BLOOD. I FELT THAT IT WASN'T YOURS, BUT I'M NOT SURE.
THERE'S A KNIFE. I SEE IT, OVER AND OVER. BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT. THE KNIFE IS SHARP BUT IT'S **LARGER** THAN IT SHOULD BE.
IS IT A SPEAR?
NO. IT'S A KNIFE BUT SO **LARGE** --

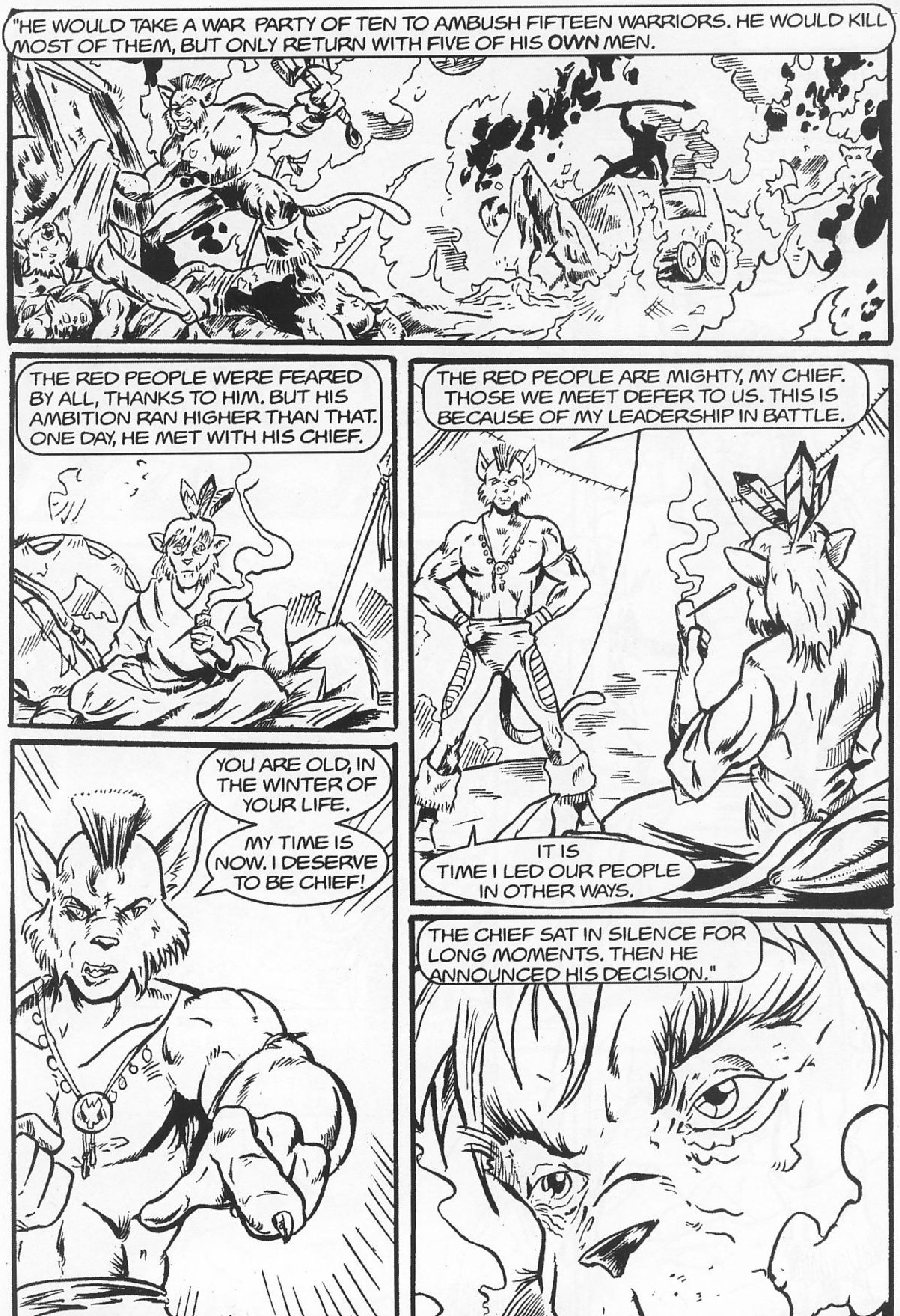
I'M SORRY I CAN'T BE CLEARER, LISKA. IT'S DIFFICULT TO CONTROL MY POWERS.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR WELCOMING BRIGHT DAWN AND I. I PROMISE TO DO ALL I CAN FOR THE CLAN.
I'M SURE YOU WILL.
YOU SEE?
I'VE BEEN HAVING BAD FEELINGS ABOUT THIS TRIP.
CAN'T YOU SEND RIAL AND PYNDAN WHILE YOU STAY HERE?
WHAT KIND OF CLAN LEADER WOULD I BE IF I DIDN'T FACT THE SAME DANGERS?
BESIDES, THE PERIL WINDFLOWER SAW MIGHT BE FAR IN THE FUTURE.
ART BY:
DANN PHILLIPS
DANN

FINALLY! I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D **EVER** LEAVE!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
COME IN!
HELLO!
WHO ARE YOU YOUNG LADIES?
I'M THEA AND THIS IS MY SISTER MELA.
THOSE WERE OUR MOTHERS THAT JUST LEFT.
HI!
I'M WIND FLOWER WELCOM TO OUR HOME.
AH... SO LISKA HAS CHILDREN.
HAVE SOME BREAD.
YEAH. RIAL'S OUR FATHER.
I HOPE THAT BRIGHT DAWN AND I WILL FIND KITTENS IN OUR TENT SOMEDAY.
***THAT'S*** NOT HOW YOU GET KITTENS!


OH?
WELL, HOW YOU GET KITTENS IS, YOU GET REAL **NOISY** IN THE FURS, AND **CALL** THE KITTENS.
OUR FATHER'S NOISY IN THE FURS WITH MOTHER, AND OUR MOTHERS ARE **REAL** NOISY.
THEY WAKE US UP EVERY MORNING THAT WAY.
RIGHT!
THEY GO **ROWRLL**! AND **FFFT**! AND **YOWL**!
**OVER** AND **OVER**-
EHHH- GIRLS, DO YOU KNOW WHERE I CAN GET SOME COOL MILK?
BE CAREFUL.
OF COURSE.

MOTHER SONNA, IT'S ALMOST LIAR'S MOON.
PLEASE! CAN YOU TELL US A STORY?
LET'S SEE... IT'S A DARK NIGHT. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF "THE TRIBE OF ONE?"
NO!

THIS HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO, BUT NOT SOOOO LONG. SOME WHO WITNESSED IT ARE STILL ALIVE.
THERE WAS A TRIBE CALLED THE RED PEOPLE, BECAUSE SO MANY OF THEM HAD RED FUR.
THEY HAD MANY WARRIORS, BUT THE FIERCEST WAS ONE CALLED **TWO STICKS.**"
"HIS NAME CAME FROM HIS METHOD OF ATTACK. HE WOULD HAVE HIS WAR PARTY SURROUND THEIR ENEMY, THEN HE WOULD SIGNAL HIS MEN BY STRIKING TWO STICKS TOGETHER."
TAK TAK
"TWO STICKS BECAME A WAR CHIEF IN TIME. HE WAS FEARLESS IN BATTLE. OTHER TRIBES BEGAN TO FEAR THE READ PEOPLE, BUT TWO STICKS HAD A FAILING AS A WARCHIEF."


"HE WOULD TAKE A WAR PARTY OF TEN TO AMBUSH FIFTEEN WARRIORS. HE WOULD KILL MOST OF THEM, BUT ONLY RETURN WITH FIVE OF HIS OWN MEN.
THE RED PEOPLE WERE FEARED BY ALL, THANKS TO HIM. BUT HIS AMBITION RAN HIGHER THAN THAT. ONE DAY, HE MET WITH HIS CHIEF.
THE RED PEOPLE ARE MIGHTY, MY CHIEF. THOSE WE MEET DEFER TO US. THIS IS BECAUSE OF MY LEADERSHIP IN BATTLE.
IT IS TIME I LED OUR PEOPLE IN OTHER WAYS.
YOU ARE OLD, IN THE WINTER OF YOUR LIFE.
MY TIME IS NOW. I DESERVE TO BE CHIEF!
THE CHIEF SAT IN SILENCE FOR LONG MOMENTS. THEN HE ANNOUNCED HIS DECISION."

TWO STICKS, YOU ARE TRULY BOLD IN BATTLE, BUT IF YOU WERE CHIEF, YOU WOULD SOON HAVE NO TRIBE TO LEAD.
YOU SHOW NO CARE OR COMPASSION FOR THOSE WHO LEAD, BUT YOUR TALENTS MUST BE RECOGNIZED.
YOU ARE NOW CHIEF OF THE **TRIBE OF ONE**. YOU MAY WAR ON ANYONE YOU DESIRE, FOR THE ONLY LIFE YOU RISK WILL BE YOUR OWN.
SINCE THEN, TWO STICKS HAS WANDERED THE WORLD, TRYING TO CONVINCE OTHERS TO JOIN HIS TRIBE. WHEN HE CANNOT WIN THEM TO HIS SIDE, HE ATTACKS THEM, SIGNALING THE AMBUSH BY STRIKING HIS STICKS TOGETHER.

TAK TAK!
WHAT'S THAT?
IT SOUNDS LIKE TWO STICKS OUTSIDE!
BOYS, IT'S JUST A STORY. SURELY SUCH BRAVE MALES AS DARMIN AND TALWIN ARE NOT FRIGHTENED BY NOISES IN THE NIGHT.
NO, W-WE'RE NOT SCARED.
NO, NOT AT ALL.

COME ON, THETIS. WE'LL TIE YOU OVER HERE.
NOT TO BE NASTY, LISKA, BUT I WISH SHE WASN'T IN SEASON RIGHT NOW.
I AGREE WITH PYNDAN. SHE'S DISTRACTING OUR MOUNTS. JUST LET HER LOOSE WITH OUR LIZARDS FOR AWHILE.
SHE'LL MAKE HER OWN CHOICE, RIAL. JUST AS I DO. MAKE SURE YOUR BEDROLL IS **FAR** AWAY FROM MINE TONIGHT.

HE'S SO SMART, HE'S OH SO ***VERY*** SMART...
SHUT UP.
NOW THAT THETIS IS SAFE, WE CAN GET TO OUR BUSINESS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THE SIGN WE FOUND?
FROM WHAT WE FOUND TODAY, I'D SAY THE HERNDON ARE ONE DAY'S RIDE TO THE EAST. BUT WE MAY HAVE RAIN BEFORE THEN.
IT DOES LOOK CLOUDY. DO YOU SUPPOSE WE SHOULD FIND SHELTER?
OH, WE SHOULD BE FINE TONIGHT.
STILL, I'LL BE GLAD TO BAG OUR GAME AND RETURN HOME.
**YOU** JUST DON'T WANT TO MISS THE LIAR'S MOON FESTIVAL.

HOLD STILL, MELA. WE'RE ALMOST DONE.
THANKS, MOTHER. IT LOOKS GREAT!
**SURE**, IF YOU WANT ALL THE BOYS TO SEE YOUR RUMP!
THEA!
DON'T THINK I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SHAKING **YOUR** TAIL AROUND CERTAIN BOYS, DAUGHTER!
BESIDES, BIG SISTER, THERE MIGHT BE **SOME** BOYS I'D LIKE TO NOTICE ME!
YOU'RE TOO YOUNG FOR THAT, MELA-

MOTHER, ISN'T SOMETHING MISSING FROM MY OUTFIT?
NOTHING THAT I KNOW OF.
MOTHER WEARS A KNIFE STRAPPED TO HER LEG.
YEAH.
I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT KNIVES TONIGHT. MELA, GET OUT OF THAT DISGUISE AND UNDER THE FURS
IT'S TIME FOR BED!
BOY, YOU GOT MOTHER UPSET!
I SURE DID. I WONDER WHAT I SAID?
TO BE CONTINUED...

ART BY SHAWNTAE HOWARD KATMANDU CHARACTERS COPYRIGHT 1998 CAROLE CURTIS